

honor to meet and be joined at the dinner by Lieutenant General Wayne D. Marty, the Adjutant General for the State of Texas at the dinner.

I would like to thank the 147th and their wing commander, Colonel McNeely, for their hospitality. I was impressed with the fun these men and women can have as a team.

They gave me this T-shirt to wear that shows the F-16 that these Texans in the 147th fly when protecting their community and our Nation. The Ace-In-the-Hole 147th Texans.

#### HONORING MARCELLE WILDER

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to the Tennessee State senate, one of the first lessons that I learned was that the senate in Tennessee is a family. This week we have lost a member of that family. Ms. Marcelle Ann Morton Wilder left us this week at the age of 83 after a lifetime of dedication to her Lord, her State, and her husband, my former colleague in the Tennessee senate, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the State senate, John Wilder.

Ms. Wilder is an example of a life well lived, a life of grace and dignity. And her 63 years of marriage to Governor Wilder can only be described as a match made in heaven. He will miss his Ms. Marcelle. We will all miss her, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Wilder family.

#### REMEMBERING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere condolences to former first lady Nancy Reagan and the entire Reagan family. And I join our Nation in expressing profound sorrow at the loss of our 40th President.

Ronald Reagan had a special place in the hearts of Nevadans. Long before he came to the White House, Ronald Reagan in a another life headlined on the Las Vegas Strip as an entertainer in the early 1950s. Later as Governor of California, he worked with his counterpart from Nevada, former U.S. Senator and Governor Paul Laxalt, to address environmental threats to Lake Tahoe.

While in the White House, Ronald Reagan would often turn to his old friend from Nevada, Senator Laxalt, who was one of his closest advisers during his time in our Nation's Capital.

Ronald Reagan served our Nation with honor and distinction. He will long be remembered for his warm wit, his quiet strength, and ability to inspire through his words and his deeds. His actions as President reshaped the

course of the 20th century, and his unbridled optimism helped restore America's faith in itself.

Today we also remember Ronald Reagan for his leadership and for his unwavering vision that Americans remain for all a land of hope, promise, and opportunity.

#### HOW ONE MAN REMEMBERS REAGAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I had the privilege of visiting with Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident who is now an Israeli cabinet minister. I asked him what his reaction was, as he was in the Soviet Gulag at that time, to the "Evil Empire" speech. Here is his reaction as expressed in a recent quotation:

"In 1983 I was confined to an 8 by 10 foot prison cell on the border of Siberia. My Soviet jailers gave me the privilege of reading the latest copy of Pravda. Splashed across the front page was a condemnation of President Ronald Reagan for having the temerity to call the Soviet Union an 'evil empire.' Tapping on walls and talking through toilets, word of Reagan's 'provocation' quickly spread throughout the prison. We dissidents were ecstatic. Finally, the leader of the Free World had spoken the truth, a truth that burned inside the heart of each and every one of us.

"At the time, I never imagined that 3 years later I would be in the White House telling the story to the President. When he summoned some of his staff to hear what I said, I understood that there had been much criticism of Reagan's decision to cast the struggle between superpowers as a battle between good and evil. Well, Reagan was right and his critics were wrong."

There is no doubt that Natan Sharansky speaks for millions of people who today are free. A great President, with a great legacy, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S DRACONIAN EMERGENCY ORDER

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I find it somewhat ironic after the fumbling underreaction to mad cow disease that the United States Department of Agriculture is considering a Draconian emergency order for all Oregon nurseries in order to deal with an infection of sudden oak disease on one nursery.

The State Department of Agriculture has already appropriately quarantined the nursery. But before we create a regulatory nightmare for hundreds of small businesses and a huge regulatory roadblock, I would hope that the U.S.

Department of Agriculture will work with the experts and our industry to protect both the environment and the vital commerce in nursery products.

There is no reason that we cannot do right by the environment and do it in a way that promotes proper treatment of this dangerous disease but avoids doing more harm than we do good.

#### REMEMBERING THE GIPPER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the world is grieving this week over the loss of a true American hero, President Ronald Wilson Reagan. Ronald Reagan defined the honor and dignity of the office of the Presidency, and he lifted the spirits of a Nation with his hope and joyfulness that sprang from an abiding faith in God and a deeply held belief in the American dream.

President Reagan entered office during a time of doubt and despair and malaise with the economy sputtering and a looming Cold War that threatened our families. Yet he brought his conservative principles of individual freedom, limited government, personal responsibility, and peace through strength.

President Reagan led a successful revolution to promote tax cuts, recognizing taxes are the people's own money. He achieved victory in the Cold War, expanding democracy worldwide. And he realigned America's political process with an open door especially for young people.

His legacy lives on today as America unites to fight the war on terror liberating millions from tyranny to protect American families as our economy is booming through tax relief.

May God bless the Reagan family. May God bless our troops. And may God continue to bless America.

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#### TRIBUTE TO FORMER PRESIDENT RONALD W. REAGAN

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as so many others have, to pay tribute to one of our Nation's finest sons and political leaders. Former President Ronald Reagan is worthy of respect and admiration both as a man and world leader, and his passing this weekend leaves each of us with a sense of loss and sadness.

His lasting mark on American politics is unquestionable. At a time when it was fashionable to declare one's political moderation, Reagan fearlessly changed the face of American politics by standing up and boldly declaring himself to be a conservative. He fought